

REMARKS

Independent claim 11 recites: "each connection for a node with a plurality of switches is connected only to one of the plurality of switches associated with that node".

Independent claim 14 has equivalent language.

Quite clearly from Fig. 2 of Samba of record, switches C1 and C2 of node C are both connected to node B. The same applies to the connections between nodes A and B.

Samba merely discloses the interconnection of all switches of nodes, in this case C1 and C2, in a telecommunication system. There is nothing in Samba to suggest that

node A could be solely connected to C1 and that node C could be solely connected to C2.

To the contrary, in the telecommunication system of Samba "each of the illustrated switches is connected by a group of communication channels (trunk group) to each of the other switches", see col. 3, lines 41-45.

The new claims make this distinction clearer and are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

Petition is hereby made for a one-month extension of the period to respond to the outstanding Official Action to April 30, 2004. A check in the amount of \$110.00, as the Petition fee, is enclosed herewith. If there are any additional charges, or any overpayment, in connection with the filing of the amendment, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such deficiency, or credit any such overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 11-1145.

Wherefore, a favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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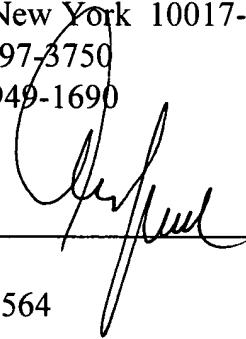
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